

Tennis Men Wonder Who Will Be Winner

Coming Struggle for Title
Arouses Discussion
Chances Favor New
Champion

By Fred Hawthorne

If you should ask Ichijima Kumagae, the mighty little man from Japan who has been creating more or less havoc among American lawn tennis players since his first visit to this country in 1916, who he thinks will win the national championship on the courts of the West Side Tennis Club at Forest Hills next week, the chances are that Mr. Kumagae would smile delightfully and name Robert Lindley Murray, William T. Tilden, 2d, Beals Wright, Harold Throckmorton or some other star among the leading men of the American courts.

But everybody does not share this comfortable feeling, when the fate of America's championship laurels at the net game is discussed. You will find many persons, and among them competent and conservative critics of the game, who believe that Kumagae himself looms up as the most dangerous bidder for the high honors that have been won in previous years by players like Maurice McLaughlin, Lieutenant Richard Norris Williams, 2d, and William M. Johnston, to mention the most recent holders.

There probably are as many more persons who confidently predict that the star of the Far East will find spectacular net-storming, smashing Murray or Tilden the stumbling block, and the quest for the title, or it may be, of course, that some player not now considered to have more than an outside chance of reaping the highest honors will be the man to lay the little Japanese low.

A Week Will Tell

The absorbing question will be answered satisfactorily and in detail by the time the sun sets a week from tomorrow, for on that day the final round match for the championship will be played, according to the schedule as outlined by the tournament committee.

The chances are all in favor of a new champion being hailed this year. Lieutenant Williams is battling with the Hun on the far-flung battle line of France; George Myers Church, who defeated Kumagae in the national in 1916, is a lieutenant in the aviation service and now stationed in Texas, from where he sent word last week that he would be unable to compete, and McLaughlin and Johnston, ensigns in the navy, are not expected to appear on the West Side courts, although Johnston may yet make a stand in defense of America's court prestige.

Murray has never yet won the national title, although last year he won the national "patriotic" singles title, a fine field. Neither Kumagae nor Tilden has earned the championship crown, and it is not considered in the range of the possible that the veterans who will complete are capable of winning through the big field of younger players that will oppose their path to the final round.

The large field, overstepping the one that started in the "patriotic" tournament last year, and the exceptional quality of the draw, come as a welcome surprise to followers of the game. In fact, the showing is little short of remarkable when we consider the conditions under which the tourney is being held this year.

Test for Kumagae

If Kumagae should come through and win the championship, there would be none to begrudge him the honors, for he would have earned them without a doubt. With men like Lindley Murray and Tilden in the fight, however, it seems that the test from the Far East will have to raise his game to greater heights than he has yet shown to capture the blue ribbon event of the American tennis world. Kumagae can do that remains to be seen.

The fact that all the gate receipts taken in at the West Side Tennis Club during the week of play are to be used for the benefit of the American Red Cross, and that the War and Navy Departments Training Camp Activities Fund, to purchase athletic equipment and "smokes" for the men in service, is certain to attract a big attendance on each day of the tourney.

Those who were fortunate enough to witness the final round match for the national doubles championship on the Longwood Cricket Club courts a week ago Saturday, when Vincent Richards and William T. Tilden, 2d, Beals Wright and Harold Throckmorton, were playing in five keenly fought sets, will be discussing the remarkable showing of the sixteen-year-old Richards for months to come.

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Double Bill in Harlem

This afternoon at Olympic Field the two leading independent baseball teams in the East will make their appearance against the Lincoln Giants. In the opening frame, at 1:30 p. m., the well known High Bridge nine will face the Giants. In the final game the crack team of the New Jersey, will oppose the home team.

Williams Sends His Best Wishes To Tennis World

FROM somewhere in France on the eve of the championship comes a cheery greeting to the tennis players of the United States, sent by Lieutenant R. N. Williams, 2d, the champion, who is serving in the artillery. His cablegram to Julian S. Myrick, vice-president of the United States National Lawn Tennis Association, follows:

"Best luck for national. Wish I could be with you. Remember me to all."

Tris Speaker Praises

Jones of the Red Sox

"Sam Jones is the best pitcher Boston has," is the eloquent praise which Tris Speaker handed out recently to the modest right-hander of the Boston forces. The Spoke had is not given to extravagant praise, but he finds it easy to violate the rule in the case of Jones. "Those two years Sam sat on the bench," continued the Texan, "made him. He needed that training. He simply absorbed everything that went on in the game. He's smart and learns rapidly. What has he got? Well, that slow ball of his simply floats up there and you swing your head off, and then he has a fast one that is on top of you and beyond you before you realize it. That's nothing right there. But in addition to these he has as good a curve as any one in the league. Yes, I believe he's the best pitcher on the team."

Athletic Coach Quits

BOSTON, Aug. 24.—Peter G. Dwyer, the former Notre Dame athlete, who has coached athletic teams at Malden High School for the past three years, today sent word from his home in Syracuse, N. Y., that he will not return as teacher-coach. He intends to enter business in his home city.

Morris County Golf Links To Rank With Best in Land

Only Four Holes of Old Course Used in New—Sixteen Playable

When completed, the Morris County Golf Club will have a golf course and country home that will compare favorably with those of any club in the metropolitan district, if not in the United States.

The club owns more than 300 acres of land on the other side of the railroad tracks from the old clubhouse, which was destroyed by fire. The new property was chiefly woodland and although two years have been spent cutting down trees, pulling up stumps, blasting rocks, filling up swamps, building putting greens and bunkers and digging traps, besides ploughing, harrowing and seeding the fairways, the work is by no means completed.

Although sixteen of the new holes are now in a playable condition, only four of these holes were a part of the old course, all the rest being on entirely new ground.

A new clubhouse of elaborate dimensions is to be erected on the top of the highest hill on the property and a broad macadamized road is to be built from the main boulevard from Morris town, and also from Convent Station up to the structure.

Discover White Sand

It has taken about two years to build a handsome and costly concrete bridge under the railroad track, and cut away and grade the roads down to it, and in doing so they ran across a vein of fine white sand, such as is to be seen on the seashore. It was about thirty feet below the level of the ground, and during the old golf professional of the Crescent Athletic Club, who is now the greengroom and superintendent of the Morris County Golf Club, which is now a new station with 500 loads of this sand for the use of their sand traps and tee boxes, and they have a supply on hand that will last them for many years.

The new clubhouse is now completed, goes under the trolley tracks as well as those of the Morris & Essex Railroad, and a stairway has been built up to the trolley line, where a new station is to be built, in keeping with the bridge, which is a work of art. The work of macadamizing the roads is now progressing rapidly.

A new club feature that is to be added is a polo field. It will be laid out on the far side of the new clubhouse and will not interfere in any respect with the golf course.

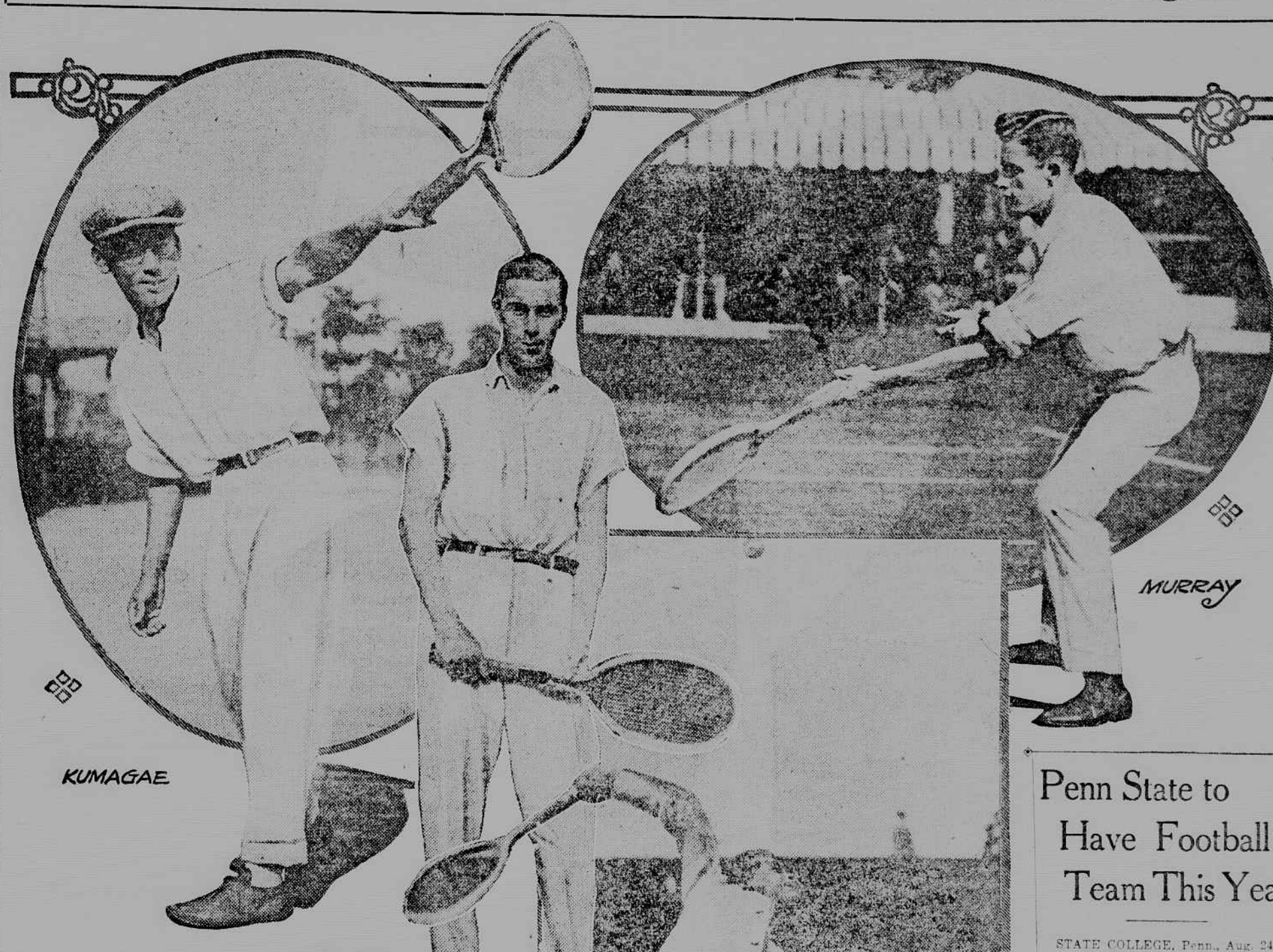
The locker room building was the only portion of the old clubhouse that was not destroyed by fire, so the members of the club will continue to use it until their new clubhouse is built. In fact, the club is now occupying a spacious mansion a short distance from the ruins of the old building, and is so comfortably housed, with the full eight-teen hole course to play over, by using two of their old holes after crossing the track on the home journey, that it has been decided to postpone the building of the new clubhouse and the laying out of the polo field till after the war.

Inactive in Summer

It is really a spring and fall club, as the majority of the members spend the summer either at the seashore resorts or in the mountains. The course is practically dead from the middle of June to the middle of September, and during that time the professional of the club, Thomas Hucklell, is granted a leave of absence to fill a summer engagement at one of the resort courses in the South.

There is no real necessity for completing the last two holes till after the clubhouse is built, as the plan of the new course is to have the start and finish at the new clubhouse. The order in which the holes are now being played is only temporary, to suit present conveniences. The trees were cut

Among Those Who Play in the National Tennis Singles



Racing Summaries

SARATOGA, TWENTY-FIRST DAY, AUGUST 24

WEATHER CLEAR; TRACK FAST

520 FIRST RACE—Selling, for two-year-olds, from one mile and a half. Winner, at 1:24.5, by Sea Sand—Fairy Dene. Owner, T. C. Cline. Trainer, A. G. Weston.

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